

ADOT collects input on road projects

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Jan Sniderman said she believes state transportation officials are heading in the right direction when it comes to improvements being considered for Grand Avenue.

But the Sun Citian does have one concern.

"I'm just a little worried that \$64 million won't be enough for these projects," she said.

On Tuesday, Arizona Department of Transportation officials heard from Sniderman and others about proposed Grand Avenue road work during meetings at Sundial Recreation Center and in El Mirage.

The proposed improvements include overpasses on Grand Avenue at 103rd Avenue and Bell Road as well as a realignment of Thunderbird Road near El Mirage. Overall, the project covers Grand Avenue from Loop 101 to Loop 303 at a cost of \$64 million from the Regional Transportation Plan approved by the Maricopa Association of Governments.

"We're trying to get public input, so it can be included in the plan we submit to MAG over the summer," said Tim Tait, ADOT community relations director.

Tait said there are at least seven road improvement projects for Phase 2 of the transportation plan. If approved, the top priority would be to build an overpass on Bell Road over Grand Avenue to help with traffic flow.

Second on the agenda is an overpass at 103rd Avenue that would cross Grand Avenue and the train tracks.

Thunderbird Road is expected to have a realignment on Grand Avenue, making it easier for drivers to maneuver into El Mirage.

Other projects considered with low priority include Meeker Boulevard and Reems Road overpasses, as well as 107th Avenue.

Tait said ADOT will have another meeting in May to discuss the approved Phase 1 project, which widens Grand Avenue to three lanes in both directions.

"I believe the Meeker and Reems project should be up there as well because it's next to the hospital like 103rd, but otherwise I think it's in the right direction," Sniderman said.